



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 21, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Interstate Brick Company, Snow White Mine, S/049/030, Utah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 10, 2003

Time of Inspection: 11:15 a.m.

Conditions: Clear

Participants: John Hewitt, Interstate Brick; Doug Jensen, and Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Check site conditions at the request of the operator.

Background:

On March 21, 2003, Mr. Hewitt had called the Division to request an inspection of the Snow White Mine. After a site visit, he felt that his operator had exceeded the five-acre limit for a small mining operation and wanted the Division to review the site and inform him as to what would be needed to correct the problem, and permit the operation as a large mining operation. The inspection was originally scheduled for April 2, 2003, but was postponed due to weather conditions on the 2nd.

Observations:

Upon arrival at the site, the operator showed us a map of the current disturbed areas. As we reviewed the map, it was discovered that it did not include all of the previously disturbed area. This mine site is in three separate areas, connected by an existing bladed road. The north area was active (clay removal) in the late 1990's. Currently, it is only being used as a storage pad for clay mined at the south area. It was visually estimated that there are between 8-9 acres of disturbance at the north area.

The central area is also being used for clay storage. The map appeared to have the entire disturbance in this area shown. Approximately 3 acres of disturbance is associated with this area.

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The south area has been active (within the last couple weeks). A portion of this area had been reclaimed in 1999 to maintain the disturbed area to less than 5 acres. Much of the reclaimed area has been re-disturbed. The estimated acreage for this area was similar to the north area at 8-9 acres. While in this area, the operator discussed future plans to move the access road to the west. This would allow the operator to avoid operating on private lands not under their control. It would also allow loading trucks at the south area, which would eliminate the need for the middle area, and storage at the north area (these areas could then be reclaimed). We discussed the need to submit a Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations, and to provide an transitional bond in the amount of \$5,000/acre, until the Large Mining Notice was approved.

Several photos were taken to document site conditions.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

While the site has expanded beyond the 5- acre limit for a small mining notice, it is recommended that a Notice of Non-Compliance *not* be issued at this time, due to the good faith effort of the operator to report the acreage problem before the Division scheduled an inspection, and his willingness to permit the site as a large mining operation and provide an transitional reclamation surety for the approximate 20 acres of current disturbance. The operator needs to be notified in writing of these requirements and time frames to submit a Large Mining Notice and the transitional surety. If deadlines are not met, the Division should then consider enforcement action.

jb

cc: John Hewitt, Interstate Brick
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